

(a) the losses incurred by UCO Bank, New Bank of India and Punjab and Sind Bank during 1990-91 and first half of 1991-92;

(b) the reasons therefore

(c) the action taken to prevent losses in future; and

(d) the performance of nationalised banks vis-a-vis foreign banks and private sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). As per the published accounts for the year 1990-91, UCO Bank, New Bank of India and Punjab and Sind Bank have shown losses of Rs. 42.96 crores, Rs. 45.00 crores and Rs. 5.45 crores respectively. The accounts for the year 1991-92 of all public sector banks including these banks will be closed on 31st March, 1992

The operational losses are primarily due to deficiencies in their credit administration at the appraisal and post sanction stages.

(c) Government and Reserve Bank of India have taken a series of measures to improve the performance and profitability of the public sector banks including these banks. These include augmentation of their capital, rationalisation of service charges and interest rates structure and levy of commitment charges on unutilised portion of operating limits. Banks have also been advised to take measures to control expenditure on consumption of petroleum, publicity etc., draw up action plans to improve their operational efficiency and take steps to strengthen their viability and profitability by means of effective business planning and development.

(d) The better performance of foreign banks in comparison to public sector banks could be attributed, among other things, to their concentration in metropolitan and port

towns, mechanisation and computerisation of operations, lower priority sector lending and higher level of non-fund business.

Selection of Officers and Staff of DGS & D for Transfer

5006. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of adhoc procurement is proposed to be transferred from DGS & D to concerned indenting Ministries/ Departments alongwith officers and staff engaged in such work;

(b) if so, the criteria followed in selection of such officers and staff for the transfer; and

(c) whether such transfer will be for short period or on permanent basis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). Yes Sir. Orders have been issued transferring ad hoc procurement from DGS & D to the indenting Ministries/Departments concerned. The criteria followed is to transfer the officers and staff hitherto engaged in such ad hoc procurement work to the indenting Ministries/ Departments along with the work. These transfers are of inter-ministerial or inter-departmental nature excepting in some cases providing for absorption. The Department of Supply will continue to be the cadre controlling authority for officers belonging to the Indian Supply Service.

Privatisation of Major Ports

5007. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any specific proposals from private

sector regarding their participation in certain areas of major ports;

(b) If so, the details thereof, portwise; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government have received some proposals like, operation of a berth at Haldia, taking over of dry dock facilities on lease at Calcutta, operation of a Container Terminal at JNPT

(c) Government have approved in principle the proposal of leasing of dry docks on competitive tender basis. Government welcomes private participation in the ports sector. Each case will be decided on its merits.

Export of Cashew Kernels

5008. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the export of cashew kernels during January-November, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to boost the export of cashew kernels, during 1992-93, and

(d) the extent to which the exports are likely to improve?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the compilation brought out

by the DGCI&S, during January-November, 1991, cashew worth Rs.541.39 crores were exported as compared to Rs.387.77 crores during the corresponding period in 1990.

(c) The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives. This process has been accelerated with the measures outlined in the Budget proposals presented to Parliament by the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 29th February, 1992.

In addition to the above, Export Promotion Councils will be participating in certain selected fairs abroad and delegations of exporters will inter-act with importers in different countries and also by participating in Buyer-Seller Meets.

(d) It will not be possible to quantify the likely improvement in exports.

Prices of Imported Raw Materials and Components

5009. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that as a result of devaluation of Indian Rupee last year, the prices of imported raw material and components have gone up,

(b) whether the indigenous industries have requested the Government for suitable price escalation for of their products to the Government,

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The prices of imported raw materials and components largely depend on the movement of prices for such